

Noticeboard

Grill the Pastor

Monday evenings 7.30
in the Portable cabin.
At this meeting you
can come and ask any
question.

Family Fun Day here at Emmanuel for
the church and the community on
Saturday 11th June. If you are able to
help with this please speak to Emma or
contact her on
emmaandpaul2000@yahoo.co.uk

The Garden Pre-School

are collecting
Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers so
if you have any please hand them in
to the church office

Food for Thought

Thursday 12th May
2.30pm
Guest Speaker is
Colin Biggs

'STEPPING-OUT' Men's Walking Group

Join us for 'Westward Ho'
on NEXT Saturday 14th May.
Meet EBC at 08:30 with a
'packed-lunch'. Names to
Bryan a.s.a.p. 01326-312115 or
bryanandhazel@hotmail.co.uk
to enable 'sensible' transport
to be organised.

Emmanuel Ladies' Time Out -

11th - 12th November 2016. Don't
miss out - please pass in your
booking forms and deposits by
29th May 2016. If you have not
received an invitation Letter
please see Hazel Evans or Angie
Godfrey and they will be able to
give one to you.

Sunday 8th May 2016

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to
know each other better, so please introduce yourself.
If you can, join us for refreshments after the service.

11am **Children and youth groups leave**

Parent and Baby Room available with a visual link to
the service.

Nippers: Age 2-4 (Parents please collect your children
at 12:00).

Buzz: Reception to Year 6

Salt: Year 7 and up (meets in the Power House)

Prayer Ministry

Members of the Prayer Ministry Team wear ministry
badges. Please speak to one of them if you would like
prayer for any reason.

Sunday 15th May

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**

Main Door Dan Pearce

Inner Door Zoe Symons & Nathan Offord

Easy Worship Gill Lister

Coffees Before Service Hazel Evans & Amy Growcott-Smith

After Service Carrie Holmes & Mary Jones

The Church office

Open Monday-Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm

Telephone 01326 315249

Email mail@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Website www.emmanuelbaptist.co.uk

Minister Rev'd Charles Blizzard

Sermon outline notes: John 3: 1-15 A new look at a well known story!

Introduction

I have heard many sermons on this passage, most of which I think do not do justice to the narrative. This morning I want to present a different approach.

1) Preliminary Points

- (i) We have a rather unfortunate chapter division. If we are to understand the narrative we need to go back to chapter 2:23. I want to suggest that John is presenting Nicodemus as a man who initially has an inadequate faith/understanding, but as the gospel unfolds will be shown to have an adequate faith/understanding.
- (ii) 'a man of the Pharisee' - a very odd phrase! Odd phrases should draw our attention.

2) The Context

What is your mental image of John 3. Many interpret the story as Nicodemus 'secretly' coming to Jesus for a discussion. However consider the following:-

- (i) A rabbi unlikely to be on his own—disciples followed their rabbis everywhere.
- (ii) No evidence of Jesus having a base in Jerusalem.
- (iii) Note that the pronouns used are plural 3:2 we know; 3:7 you; 3:11 we speak.
- (iv) At night—it was rabbinic practice to discuss theology at night. Most rabbis would have a trade which they worked at during the day (consider Paul who was a tent maker).

What we probably have is Jesus sitting with his disciples in the temple area in the evening when Nicodemus with his disciples come along to ask questions.

3) The Cultural Norms Challenged!

- It was an accepted cultural norm that the senior would start the conversation and set the agenda. This is what Nicodemus does, verse 2.
- But there is no connection between Jesus' reply (verse 3) and

Nicodemus' opening comment! Jesus has challenged Nicodemus right to set the agenda.

- Nicodemus is 'miffed' and his comments are very 'un-rabbinic' 'flat and even foolish!

4) Challenging Truths

Jesus teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit and the role of 'the Son of Man'. This is rich, deep teaching. At this point Nicodemus 'disappears' from the narrative—we are not told about his response.

5) Nicodemus is mentioned twice again in John's gospel:

- Chapter 7:45 –52 where he publically defends Jesus, probably at great cost to his own personal reputation.
- Chapter 19:38 –42 where he and Joseph of Arimathea take the dead body of Jesus and place it in a garden tomb. This was a 'dangerous' thing to be doing.

Conclusion

John has introduced us to a man who is an example of the 'journey of faith' and whose faith is an example of the kind of man/faith Jesus could entrust himself to!

Points to Ponder

- 1) Was the perspective in this passage convincing? If so, why? If not, why not?
- 2) Chapter 7: 45-52; Chapter 19:28-42. In your imagination, relive these incidents, what would have been the repercussions for Nicodemus?
- 3) John 3:14—This comment is based on the strange story found in Numbers 21:4-9. What is Jesus saying here?